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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

6980 7590 06/29/2009

TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP
BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA
600 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.
SUITE 5200
ATLANTA, GA 30308-2216

EXAMINER

CHANG, JULIAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2452

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/925,786

08/09/2001

James Davis

STAT1150

5372

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN A HOST COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION DEVICES ASSOCIATED WITH REMOTE DEVICES IN AN AUTOMATED MONITORING SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	09/29/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

6980 7590 06/29/2009

TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP
BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA
600 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.
SUITE 5200
ATLANTA, GA 30308-2216

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/925,786 08/09/2001 James Davis STAT1150 5372

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN A HOST COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION DEVICES ASSOCIATED WITH REMOTE DEVICES IN AN AUTOMATED MONITORING SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$300 \$0 \$1810 09/29/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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CHANG, JULIAN 2452 709-218000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/925,786	08/09/2001	James Davis	STAT1150	5372
6980	7590	06/29/2009	EXAMINER	
TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA 600 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. SUITE 5200 ATLANTA, GA 30308-2216			CHANG, JULIAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2452	
			DATE MAILED: 06/29/2009	

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 224 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 224 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/925,786	DAVIS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JULIAN CHANG	2452	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/28/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-22 and 28-31.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

/Kenny S Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to communication filed on 05/28/09. Claims 15-32 are pending, and have been examined below.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 15-22 and 28-31, drawn to a method of controlling communications using a site controller, classified in class 709, subclass 238.
 - II. Claims 23-27 and 32, drawn to a site controller, classified in class 709, subclass 238.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

3. Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product. See MPEP § 806.05(h). In the instant case the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using the product.
4. Restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper because all these inventions listed in this action are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious search and examination burden if restriction were not required because one or more of the following reasons apply:

- (a) the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification;
- (b) the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art due to their recognized divergent subject matter;
- (c) the inventions require a different field of search (for example, searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or employing different search queries);
- (d) the prior art applicable to one invention would not likely be applicable to another invention;
- (e) the inventions are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after

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the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected invention.

If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable upon the elected invention.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

5. During a telephone conversation with Filip A. Kowalewski on 06/19/09 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute invention I of claims 15-22 and 28-31. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 23-27 and 32 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

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7. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Filip A. Kowalewski on 06/19/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A method for controlling communication with a host computer connected to a first communication network and a plurality of communication devices that define a second communication network associated with a plurality of remote devices that are to be monitored and controlled by the host computer, the method comprising:

 sending a path determination message to a target communication device from a site controller through the second communication network prompting the target communication device to retransmit the path determination message to the site controller through the second communication network,

 generating a network map of all down-stream communication paths from the site controller to the target communication device and all up-stream communication paths from the target communication device to the site controller from the unique addresses of the communication devices that retransmitted the path determination message from the site controller to the target communication device or from the target communication device to the site controller,

 based on the network map, determining one or more up-stream and down-stream communication paths associated with each of the plurality of communication devices;

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managing communication with each of the plurality of communication devices and the identification of each of the plurality of communication devices in the one or more communication paths, via a first communication protocol, based on one or more of the communication paths associated with each of the plurality of communication devices;

managing communication with the host computer via a second communication protocol;

storing on the site controller a first look-up table for identifying each of the plurality of communication devices that define a second communication network; and

storing on the site controller a second look-up table for identifying a function to be performed by the site controller based upon an analysis of a message received from any one of the plurality of communication devices that define a second communication network.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of communication devices are wireless communication devices, the plurality of wireless communication devices being disposed throughout a geographic area such that the antenna patterns associated with the plurality of wireless communication devices overlap to create a coverage area that defines the second communication network.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the first communication network is a wide area network and the second communication protocol comprises TCP/IP.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising managing communication with each of the plurality of communication devices, via a first communication protocol, based on one or more of the communication paths associated with each of the plurality of communication devices wherein the first communication protocol comprises a data packet, the data packet comprising:

a to address;

a from address; and

a command number comprising a function code.

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19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the data packet further comprises:

- a data field;
- a checksum field;
- a packet number field;
- a packet length field;
- a packet maximum field; and
- a message number field.

20. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

receiving a request, via the first communication network, from the host computer for information related to one of the plurality of remote devices;

providing a command message to the second communication network for delivery to the one of the plurality of remote devices based on one of the communication paths associated with the communication device corresponding to the one of the plurality of remote devices.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving a response message, via the second communication network, that is generated by the communication device corresponding to the one of the plurality of remote devices, the response message comprising a first communication device identifier associated with the communication device associated with the one of the plurality of remote devices and a predetermined function code corresponding to a data signal provided by the one of the plurality of remote devices associated with the communication device that generated the response message; and

determining, based on the first communication device identifier, the communication device that generated the first data signal.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, comprising providing the data signal to the first communication network for delivery to the host computer.

23-27. (canceled).

28. (currently amended) A method for controlling communication with a host computer connected to a first communication network and a plurality of communication devices that define a second communication network associated with a plurality of remote devices that are to be monitored and controlled by the host computer, the method comprising:

 sending a path determination message to each communication device from a site controller through the second communication network prompting each communication device to retransmit the path determination message to the site controller through the second communication network;

 generating a map of the entire network from the unique addresses of every communication device that retransmitted each path determination message from the site controller to each communication device or from each communication device to the site controller;

 based on the network map, determining one or more up-stream and down-stream communication paths between the controller and each communication device;

 managing communication between the controller and each of the communication devices based upon the network map and through a first communication protocol;

 managing communication between the controller and the host computer through a second communication protocol; **and**

 the site controller translating a message from the host computer to a communication device in the second communication network from the second communication protocol into the first communication protocol; **and**

storing on the site controller a first look-up table for identifying each of the plurality of communication devices that define a second communication network; and

storing on the site controller a second look-up table for identifying a function to be performed by the site controller based upon an analysis of a message received from any one of the plurality of communication devices that define a second communication network.

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29. (previously presented) The method of claims 28 further comprising, the site controller translating a message from a communication device in the second communication network to the host computer from the first communication protocol into the second communication protocol.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein a message from any one of the communication devices that define a second communication network to the host computer contains a preface and a postscript.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the first communication protocol is an open data packet protocol.

32. (canceled).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 15-22 and 28-31 are allowed.

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the art of record to control communications with a method comprising determining upstream and downstream communication paths using a network map generated from path determination messages, and managing communication with each of a plurality of communication devices based on the communication paths using a first and second look-up tables identifying the plurality of communication devices, and identifying a function to be performed, respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JULIAN CHANG whose telephone number is (571)272-8631. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/J. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 2452

/Kenny S Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452